



*\*\*\*Sent on behalf of the Secretary for Public Safety and Homeland Security\*\*\**

Dear State/Local/Non-Profit/Homeland Security/Emergency Management Professionals:

The Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security (SPSHS) and Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) are requesting nominations for voluntary peer reviewers to review FY 2016 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) project proposals. Participation will provide reviewers the unique opportunity to gain insight into the evaluation process and learn about innovative projects being pursued by their peers.

SPSHS & VDEM seeks peer reviewers who are:

- Experienced homeland security professionals (such as the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) state agency leadership), Urban Area Working Group members, emergency management response personnel or academics with a background in homeland security/emergency management.
- Representative of a variety of disciplines with significant homeland security expertise.;
- Familiar with the Virginia Homeland Security Strategic Plan, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) or State Preparedness Report (SPR).

Please forward this message to anyone within your organization that you feel would be beneficial to the decision-making process for this important grant program.

Peer reviewers will independently review and score projects online at their convenience between **June 27 – July 18, 2016**. The review process for FY 2016 is expected to take 10-15 hours to complete. Reviewers are also expected to review all training materials and participate in webinars (provided by June 27) prior to scoring.

All individuals interested in participating in the review process should follow this link [2016 SHSP Peer Reviewer Application](#) **no later than May 31** to complete and submit the nominee information sheet that includes a consent box for non-disclosure agreement, conflict of interest form and application information handling instructions. Selected peer reviewers will be contacted by mid June to confirm participation and provide login information to the system. Submitting the required forms does not guarantee selection as a reviewer.

As with the 2015 process, there will be a regional subject matter expert (SME) review during the same time frame (June 27 – July 18). During this time, each region will assemble a group of SMEs to review and score each project from their region as it relates to the regional priorities identified during the June workshops. If you are interested in being one of these SMEs for your region, please contact the appropriate VDEM point of contact below for your region by email before **May 31**. You can be both an initial peer reviewer and an SME during this process.

SMEs are considered experts in the fields of cybersecurity, fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), emergency management, information sharing, interoperability, mass care or outreach.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
1	Eileen Tarr	<a href="mailto:Eileen.Tarr@vdem.virginia.gov">Eileen.Tarr@vdem.virginia.gov</a>
2	Scott Hudson	<a href="mailto:Scott.Hudson@vdem.virginia.gov">Scott.Hudson@vdem.virginia.gov</a>
3	Gene Stewart	<a href="mailto:Gene.Stewart@vdem.virginia.gov">Gene.Stewart@vdem.virginia.gov</a>
4	Willie Richardson	<a href="mailto:William.Richardson@vdem.virginia.gov">William.Richardson@vdem.virginia.gov</a>
5	Bruce Sterling	<a href="mailto:Bruce.Sterling@vdem.virginia.gov">Bruce.Sterling@vdem.virginia.gov</a>
6	Mike Guzo	<a href="mailto:Mike.Guzo@vdem.virginia.gov">Mike.Guzo@vdem.virginia.gov</a>
7	Virgil Gray	<a href="mailto:Virgil.Gray@vdem.virginia.gov">Virgil.Gray@vdem.virginia.gov</a>

The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and VDEM appreciate your support for this very important process, and we thank you for your continued commitment to the Commonwealth's homeland security.